

# NEW MEXICO FORTS

## 1848 TO PRESENT





# 1540-1821

Spanish Forts (known as Presidios) were built to secure and defend claim to territories occupied by indigenous populations.

Claims of Gold like found in the Inca Empire turned out to be false and expeditions returned empty handed.

[https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online\\_books/blm/ut/29/chap1.htm](https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/blm/ut/29/chap1.htm)



# Some of the Spanish Presidios

## **San Juan de los Caballeros** (1598-1610):

Built near the Rio Grande & Chama River by Juan de Onate. Abandonad after Pueblo Revolt of 1680. Also known as the First Spanish capital of NM.

## **Santa Fe** (1610-1821):

Second and final Spanish capital of NM by Pedro de Peralta after the abandonment of San Juan de los Caballeros. Fort was seat of Spanish Colonial Government and center of trade.

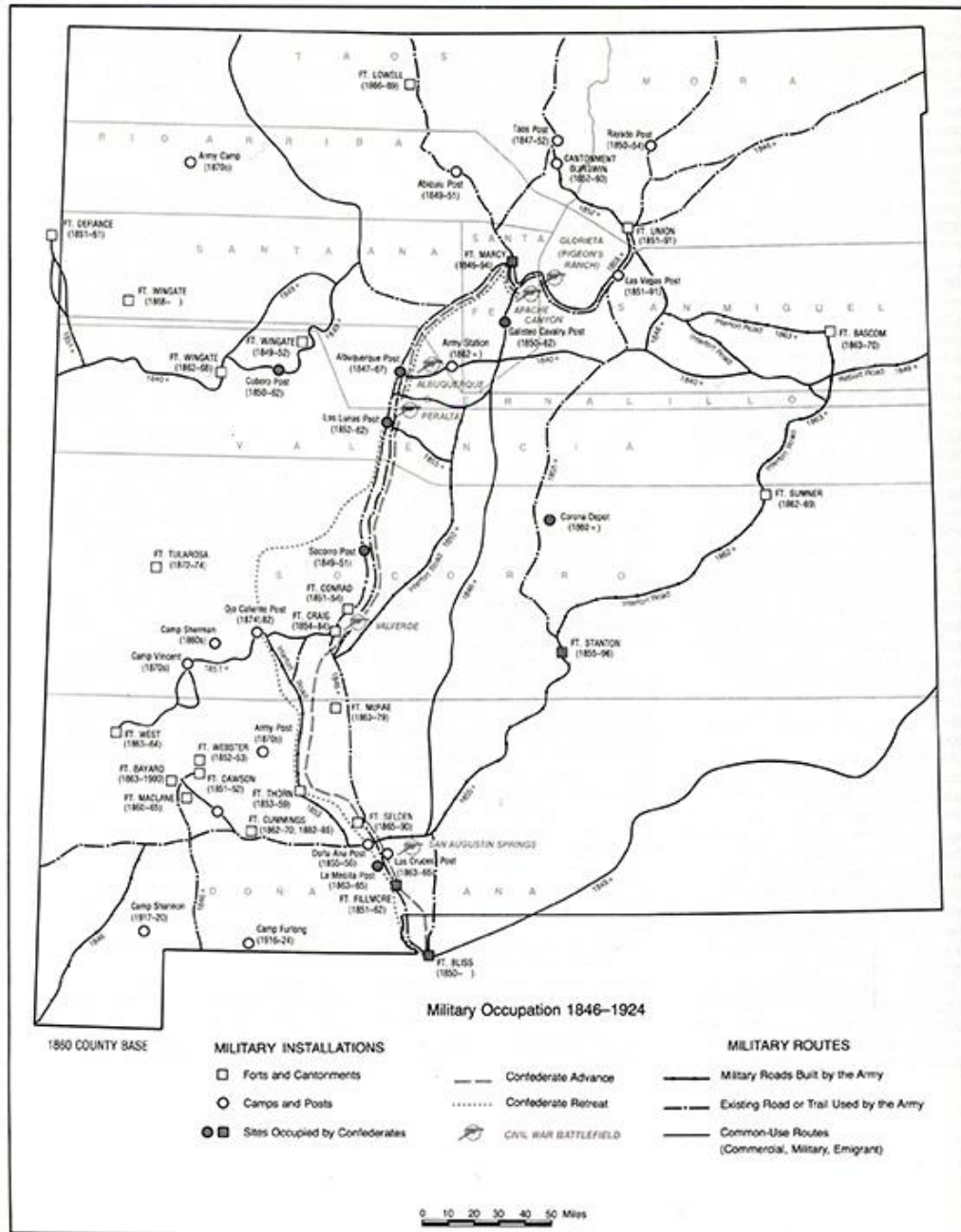
## **El Paso del Norte** (1659-1821):

Fort and misión established on the south bank of the Rio Grande by Garcia de San Francisco (opposite of present day El Paso).

**San Felipe de Neri** (1706-1821): Established on the east bank of the Rio Grande near present day Albuquerque by Francisco Cuero y Valdes. Strategic outpost for Spanish Military and Settlers.

## **San Miguel de Socorro** (1815-1821):

Established on the west bank of the Rio Grande near present day Socorro by Jose Antonion Martinez. Built to protect settlers from Apache and Commanche raids.



United States acquired the New Mexico territory after the Mexican-American War (1846-1848)

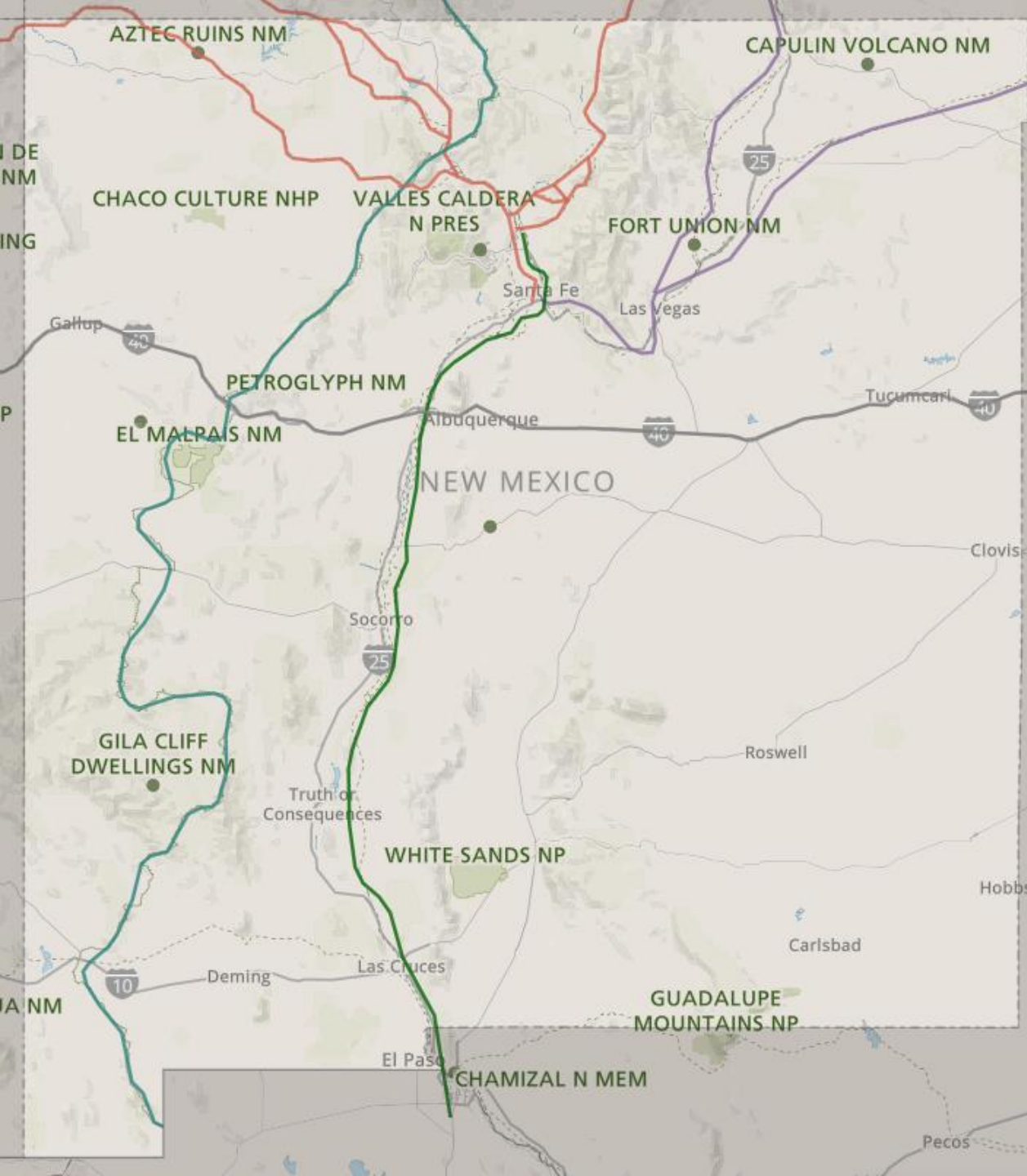
New Mexico was occupied without any fighting when the Mormon Battalion marched to Santa Fe without opposition.

Several Forts and Camps were more permanent than others.

A lot of the camps were transitional and would last only for a few years. Needs depending upon the territorial situation at the time.

Source:

<https://online.nmartmuseum.org/nmhistory/utilities/maps/territorial-military-map.html>



National Park Service only lists one fort under their umbrella.

Given 15 National Parks in New Mexico, Only Fort Union makes the list.

National Park Service:  
<https://www.nps.gov/state/nm/index.htm>

# **10 HISTORIC FORTS IN NEW MEXICO**

- 1. Fort Craig (1854)**
- 2. Fort Union (1851-1891)**
- 3. Fort Sumner (1862-1869)**
- 4. Fort Selden (1865-1891)**
- 5. Fort Wingate (1862-1988)**
- 6. Fort Lowell (1866-1869)**
- 7. Fort Bayard (1866-1965)**
- 8. Fort Marcy (1846-1887)**
- 9. Fort Stanton (1855-1896)**
- 10. Fort Webster (1852-1853)**

Source: <https://historicforts.com/historic-forts-in-new-mexico/>



# Fort Craig



[https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/images/\\_JPP9034.jpg](https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/images/_JPP9034.jpg)





Fort Craig  
was  
established  
in 1854 near  
the banks of  
the Rio  
Grande in  
New Mexico  
Territory.

Fort Craig: 1854









# Ft Craig Rd, San Antonio, NM 87832

Source:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Fort+Craig+Historic+Site/@33.734991,-107.1689676,10z/data=!4m6!3m5!1s0x872069866daa4d23:0xb45bc1cac5fc014d!8m2!3d33.635413!4d-107.0165281!16s%2Fm%2F027vj42?entry=ttu>



# Fort Union



Source: Getty Images: <https://gettyimages.com>





# Fort Union

Fort Union was established in 1851 in the Mora Valley of New Mexico at the intersection of two key branches of the Santa Fe Trail.



# Fort Union National Monument



Source:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Fort+Union+National+Monument/@35.8486351,-105.1185733,11.5z/data=!4m6!3m5!1s0x871a274899281ac7:0x48d2a5d103c5bcc2!8m2!3d35.904966!4d-105.0113797!16zL20vMDRtNXFz?entry=ttu>

# Fort Union 1870s

[https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online\\_books/foun/adhi/adhi1a.htm](https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/foun/adhi/adhi1a.htm)



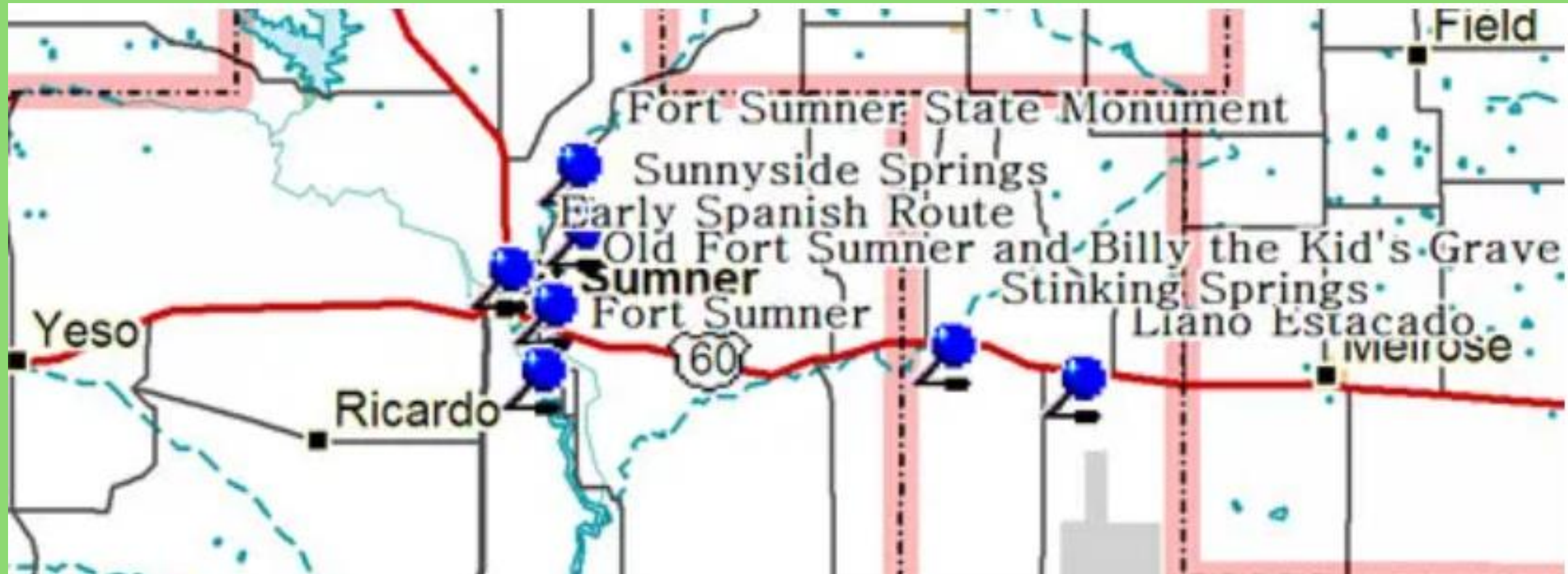


# Fort Sumner





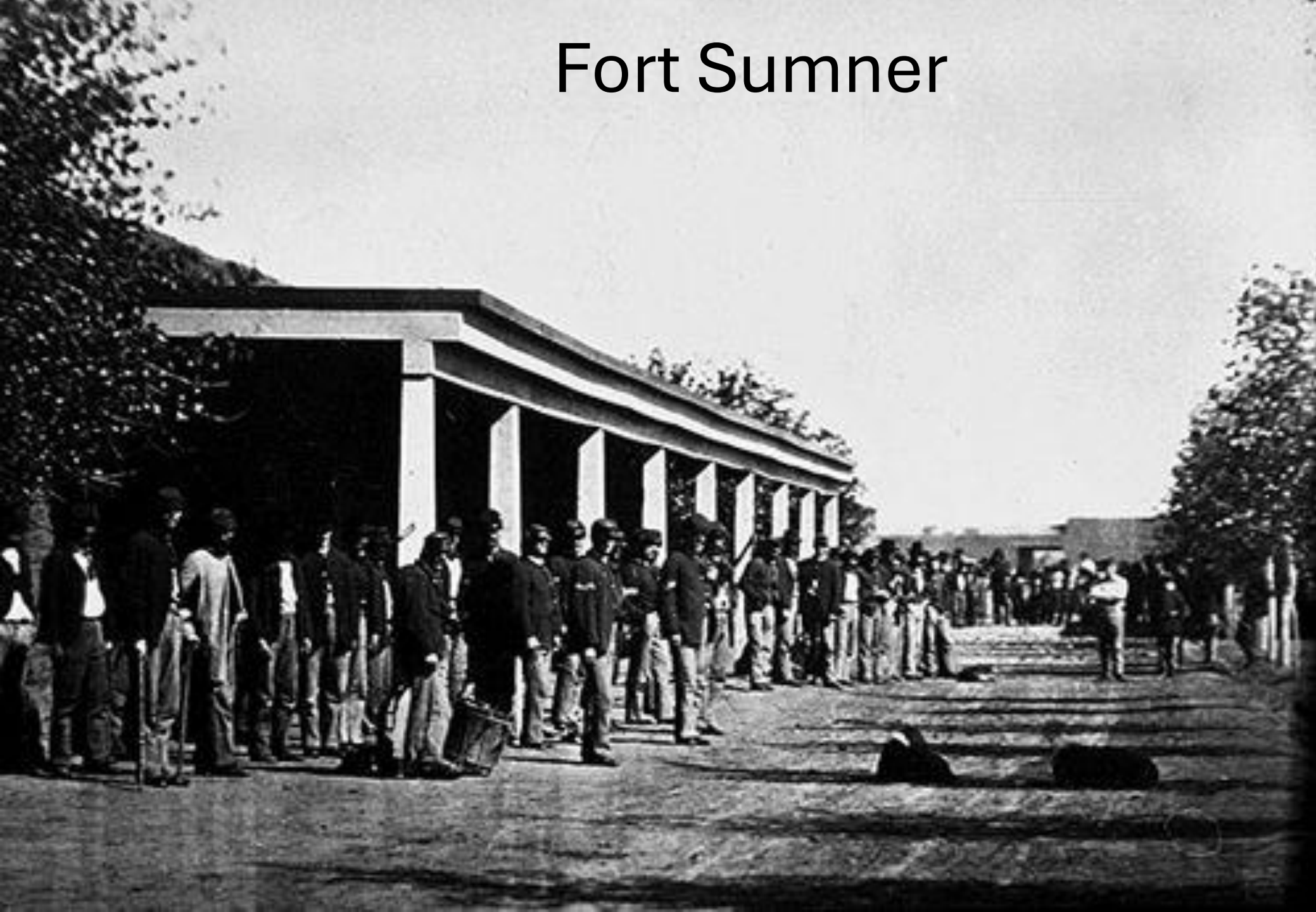
# Location of Fort Sumner 1862-1869



The Town of Fort Sumner is 7 miles NW of the old Fort Sumner location. Fort Sumner was sold Lucien Maxwell later inherited by Pete Maxwell. Also known where Billy the Kid was killed on Pete Maxwell's property. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort\\_Sumner,\\_New\\_Mexico](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Sumner,_New_Mexico)



# Fort Sumner



[https://  
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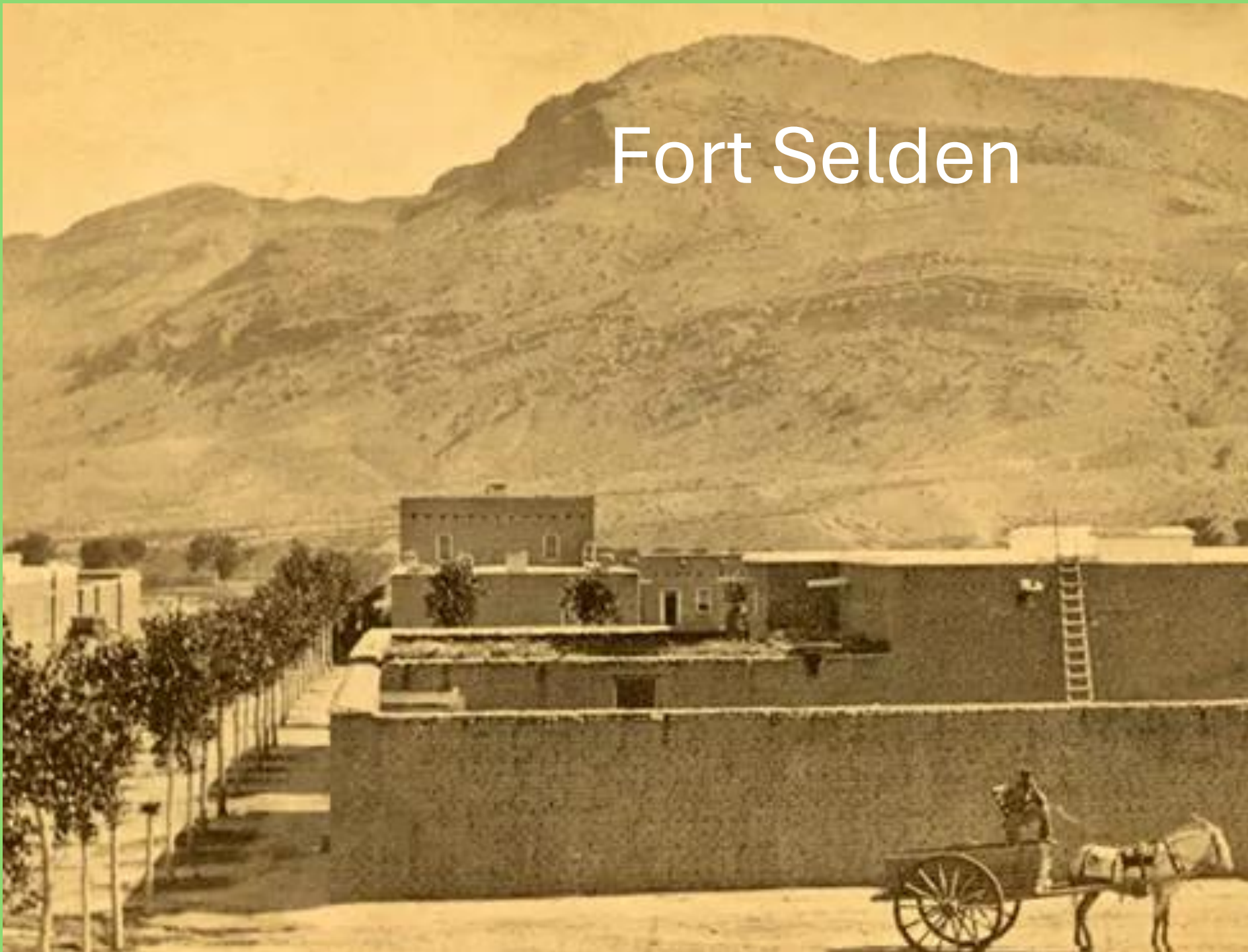
Fort Seldon 1865-1891

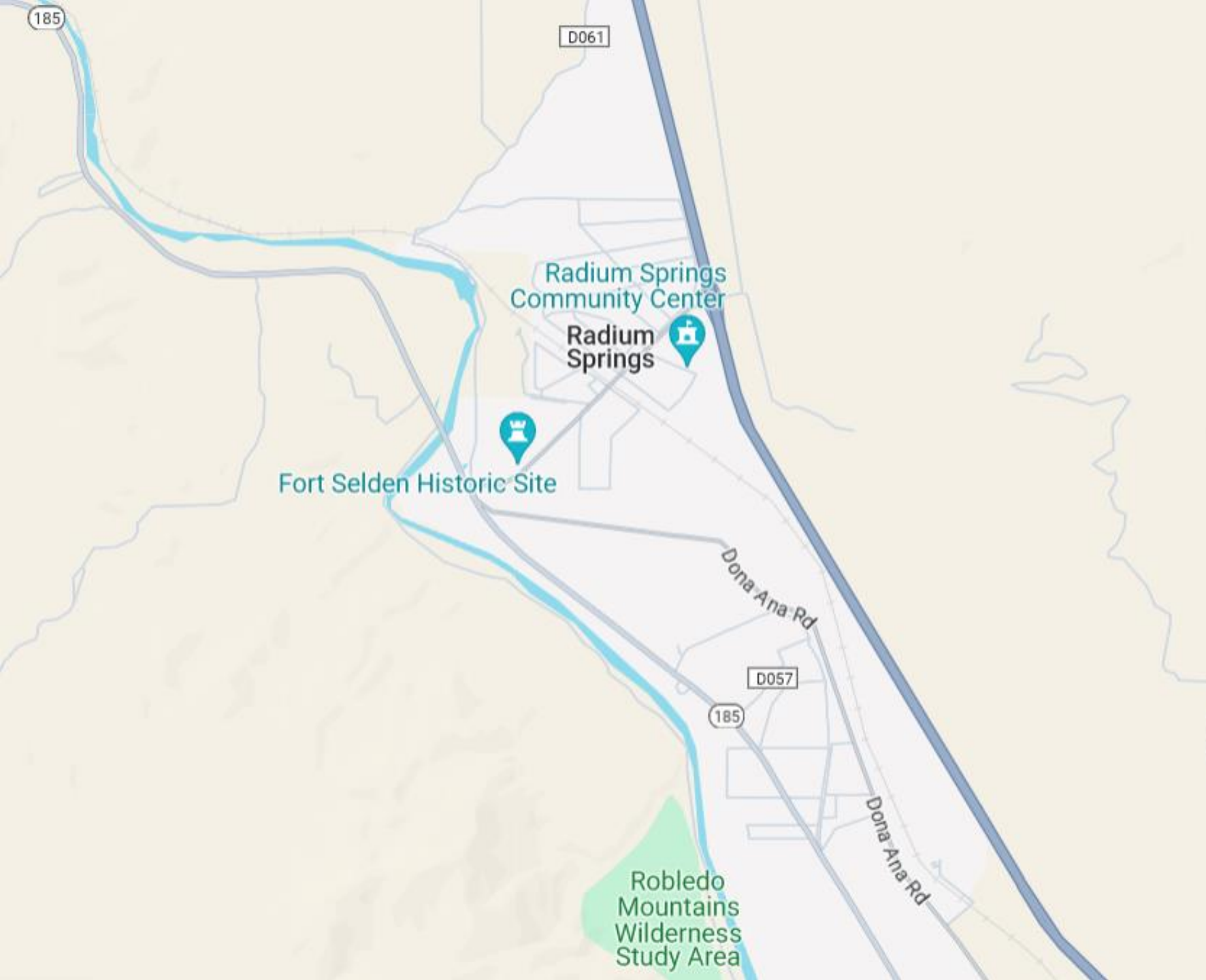


# Fort Selden

**Fort Selden** was a United States Army post, occupying the area in what is now Radium Springs, New Mexico.

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/new-mexico-fort-selden-historic-site.htm>





# Fort Seldon

Occupied by Confederates in 1861. Reestablished by the US Army 1865. But abandoned a few years later. Reoccupied when Apache Warriors left the reservation. Abandoned in 1891. Home to the Buffalo Soldiers and Douglas McArthur grew up as his father was commander at the post.

## Fort Seldon in relation to Radium Springs, NM

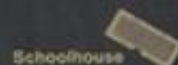




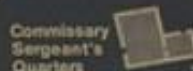
Bakery



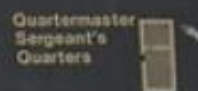
Commanding  
Officer's  
Quarters



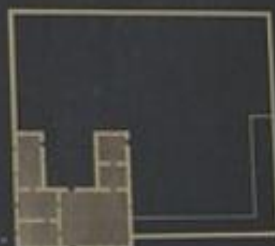
Schoolhouse



Commissary  
Sergeant's  
Quarters



Quartermaster  
Sergeant's  
Quarters



Post Trader



Post Hospital

Troop  
Quarters

Offices, Storerooms, and Workshops

Officers'  
Quarters

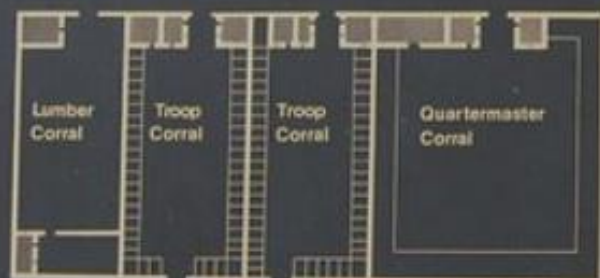
Artillery Park



Wash  
House



Latrine



Lumber  
Corral

Troop  
Corral

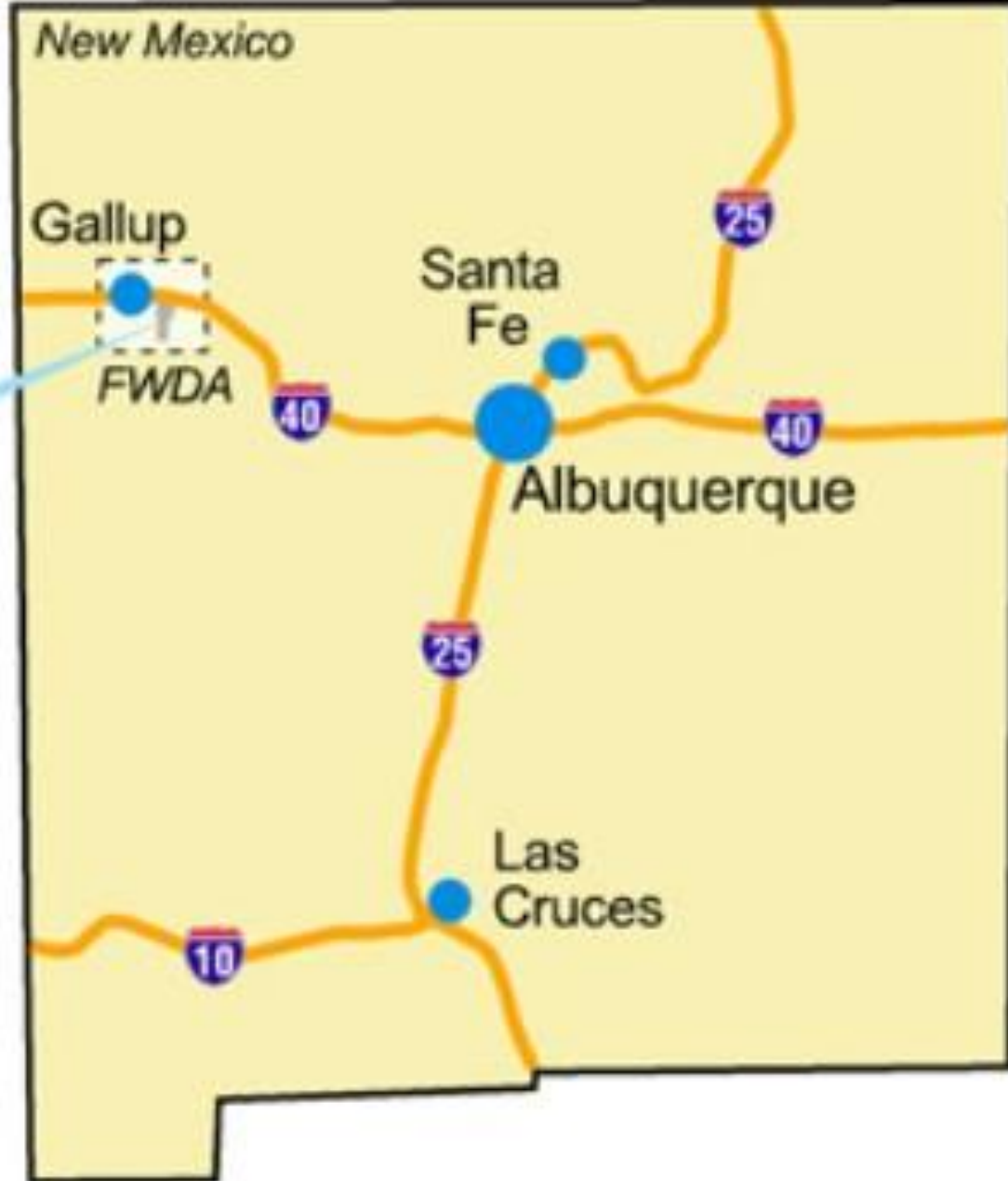
Troop  
Corral

Quartermaster  
Corral

⊗ You are Here

Plan  
of  
**FORT SELDEN**  
1875

# Location of Fort Wingate





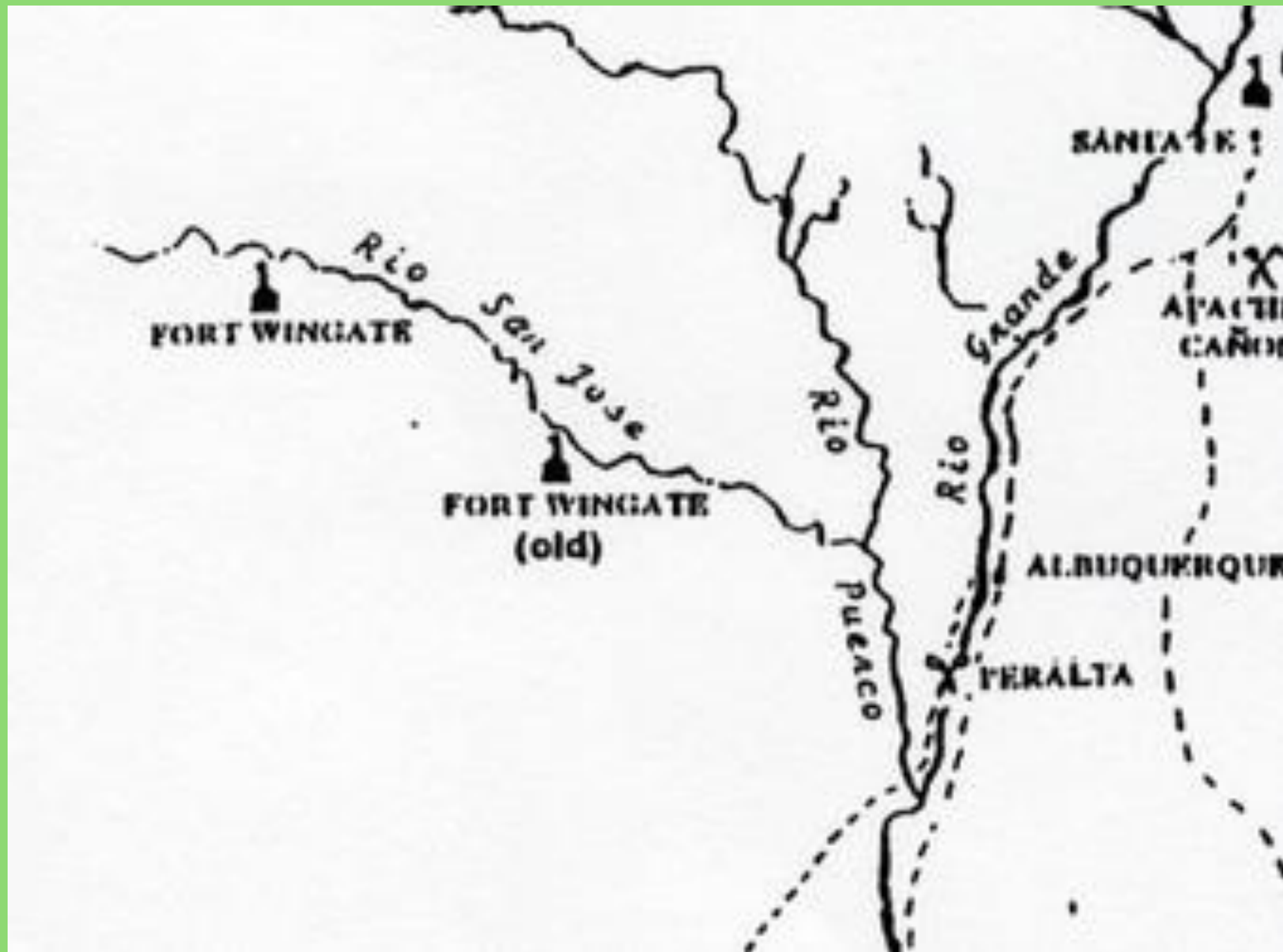
**Fort Wingate** was a military installation near Gallup, New Mexico, United States. There were two other locations in New Mexico called Fort Wingate: [Seboyeta, New Mexico](#) (1849–1862) and [San Rafael, New Mexico](#) (1862–1868).<sup>[2]</sup>

The most recent Fort Wingate (1868–1993) was established at the former site of Fort Lyon, on [Navajo](#) territory, initially to control and "protect" the large [Navajo](#) tribe to its north. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort\\_Wingate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Wingate)

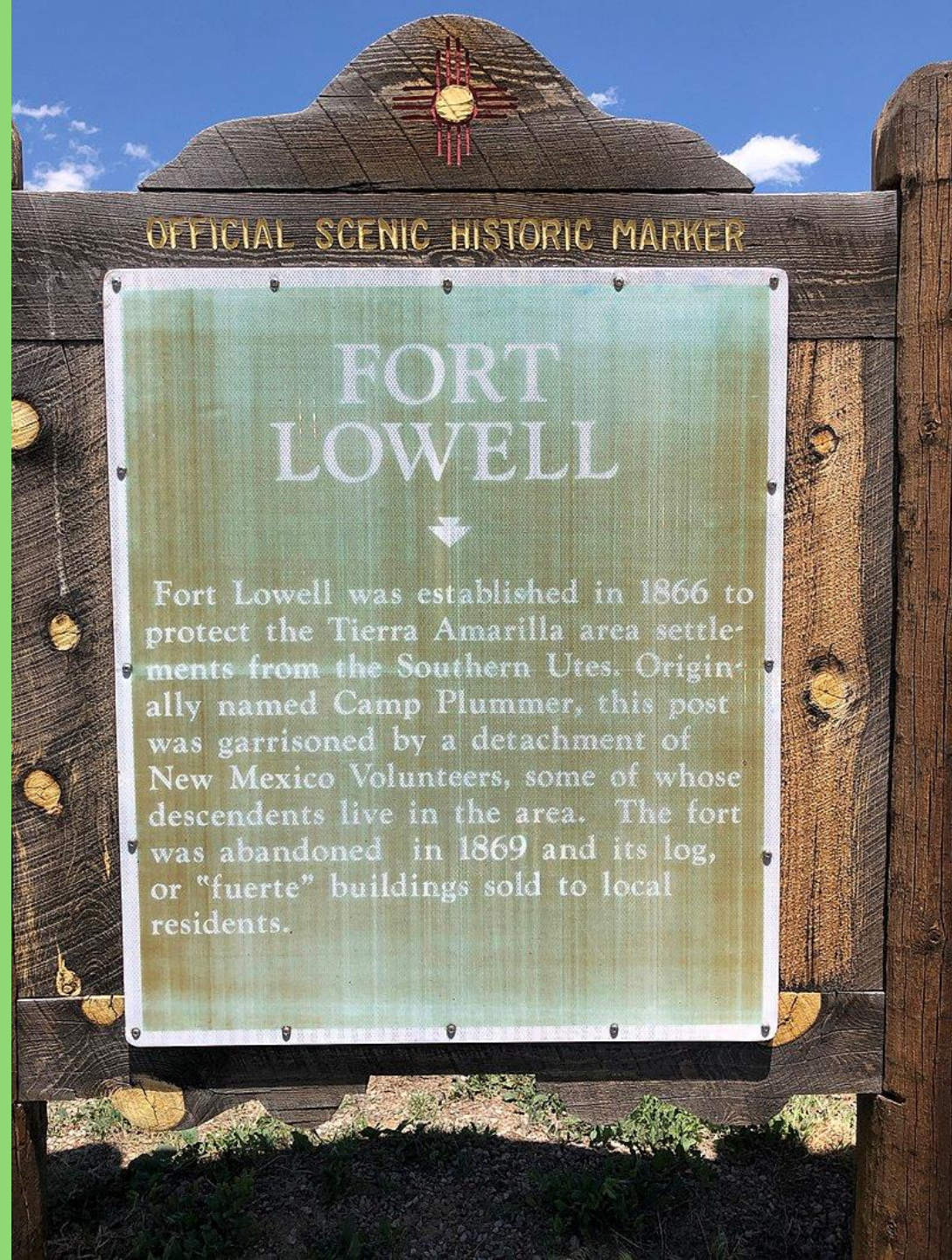
# Fort Wingate 1862-1988



Fort Wingate in relation to one of the other two older forts.







# Fort Lowell NM 1866-1868

The **Fort Lowell** in or near [Los Ojos, New Mexico](#), was established in 1866 and operated until 1869. It protected settlements in the area of [Tierra Amarilla](#) from the [Southern Utes](#). It was at first named **Camp Plummer** and was garrisoned by New Mexico volunteers, some of whose descendants remain in its area.<sup>[1]</sup>

In 1869 it was abandoned and its log buildings were sold to local residents.<sup>[1]</sup> Some of its lumber may have been salvaged for construction of the [Gilbert Martinez Barn](#), which stands near its location.

Source:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort\\_Lowell\\_\(Los\\_Ojos%2C\\_New\\_Mexico\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Lowell_(Los_Ojos%2C_New_Mexico))

Note: This fort should not be confused with Fort Lowell in Tuscon, Arizona.





Fort Bayard – 1866-1965

<https://www.historicfortbayard.org/>



Founded in 1866, Fort Bayard at first provided security (mainly by African-American “Buffalo Soldiers”) against Native American attacks on settlers during the settlement of the region in the 19th century. It was then converted into the army’s first tuberculosis sanitarium, and later became a VA hospital. The site was designated a National Historic Landmark District in 2004. -

<https://www.historicfortbayard.org/>



# Buffalo Soldiers

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United States Army 9th Cavalry  
38th, 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments  
24th and 25th Infantry Regiments  
125th U.S. Colored Troops  
1866 Fort Bayard, New Mexico Territory

## Walter Loving

Played in 24th infantry and at Fort Bayard circa 1890s. At the close of WWII, he was killed in the Philippines.

<https://www.historicfortbayard.org/fort-bayard-history/>



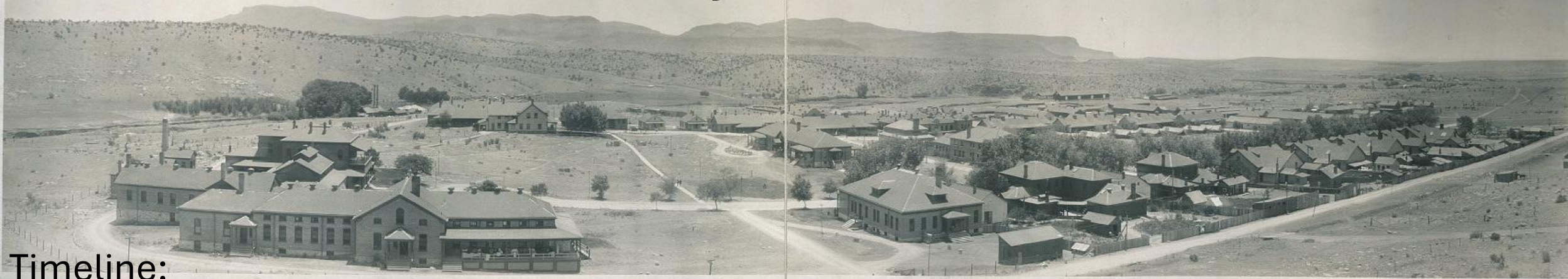
## Private William Cobbs

This photo of William Cobbs (1874-1949) was taken in the Aultman Studio (Trinidad, Colo.) by Oliver E. Aultman (1867-1953) in 1894. The Aultman Studio register identifies both the date of the photograph and the subject pictured. Cobbs poses in his infantry uniform with his arms crossed in front of his chest. He wears a white bow tie and a forager's cap. The metal insignia on his cap is composed of two crossed rifles with the number "24" and the letter "F" between them. A studio backdrop painted with flowers is visible behind him. Cobbs was a "buffalo soldier" in the 24th Infantry Regiment, stationed in New Mexico.

Cobbs served as a private with the U.S. Army 24th Infantry, Company F, who were mostly stationed in Fort Bayard, New Mexico during Cobbs' years of enlistment. Known as one of the Buffalo Soldier regiments, the 24th was led by Colonel Zenas R. Bliss (1835-1900), and primarily went on scouting expeditions to help keep the peace in the southwest after the American Indian Wars. Cobbs stayed with the 24th from 1891 until he was discharged in 1896. During the Pullman Strike of 1894, the 24th was one the regiments sent to Trinidad to help subdue striking railroad workers. This brief stay in Trinidad would have given Cobbs the chance to have his portrait taken by the Aultman Studio.



# Fort Bayard Post -1909



Timeline:

US Army Post 1868-1900

1900 - Transferred to the Surgeon General's Department for a Tuberculosis Hospital.

1919 - Transferred to the US Public Health Service to administer Hospital No. 55., a veterans' tuberculosis hospital.

1922 – Became part of the Veteran's Bureau

The fort was partially reactivated as a military installation during [World War II](#). A number of German prisoners of war were held at the fort from 1943 to 1945.

The fort is now administered by the New Mexico Department of Health as Fort Bayard Medical Center, a long-term care nursing facility that also contains a chemical dependency treatment center. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort\\_Bayard\\_Historic\\_District](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Bayard_Historic_District)



# Fort Bayard National Cemetery

By US-VA - <http://www.cem.va.gov/CEMs/nchp/ftbayard.asp>, Public Domain,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6583153>



<https://www.fortbayard.org/>



# THE ARMY OF THE WEST

During the War with Mexico in 1846, General Stephen Watts Kearny, commander of the Army of the West, led his troops through what would be Grant County. He was accompanied by scout Kit Carson and a staff of topographical engineers led by Lt. William Emery. On October 12, they held council with Chiricahua Apache leader Mangas Coloradas near the deserted Santa Rita del Cobre Presidio. Previously employed at Santa Rita and familiar with the area, Carson led them to San Vicente de la Ciénega, today called Silver City, before heading westward along the Gila River to California.

On November 16, 1846, Lt. Colonel Philip St. George Cooke, Antoine Laroux, Jean Baptiste Cherbonneau, other scouts, and the Mormon Battalion of Volunteers including four wives, traveled a more southern route. They camped near Cooker's Peak (Cerro de los Remedios - Spanish or Dziltanatal - Chihenne Chiricahua Apaches) at a spring later called Cooker's Spring. Their orders were to blaze a wagon road to the Pacific. The 1850 - 1851 Butterfield Overland Mail followed portions of Cooke's Road.



## SPONSORS

• Southern Trails Chapter of The Oregon-California Trails Association  
 Silver City Town & Country Garden Club, • Ft. Bayard Historic Preservation Society • Silver City Dental • Silver Health Care  
 • Jacob Bennett Chapter, National Society, Daughters of The American Revolution • Carrett R. & Miriam P. Olin

The Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society operates two separate facilities: the Museum on site at the historic fort, and the Santa Clara - Fort Bayard Historic Visitors Center, located in the former National Guard Armory, at 11990 US Hwy 180, 6 miles east of Silver City, on the north side of the highway.

<https://www.fortbayard.org/>



# Fort Marcy (1846-1887)



# Fort Marcy (1846-1887)

On August 19, 1846, three months into the Mexican-American War, U.S. Army Lieutenants William H. Emory and Jeremy F. Gilmer scaled an 80-foot bluff to survey the scene above the newly occupied Mexican city of Santa Fe. It was located approximately some 600 yards northeast of the historic plaza and Palace of the Governors.

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/new-mexico-fort-marcy-ruins.htm>



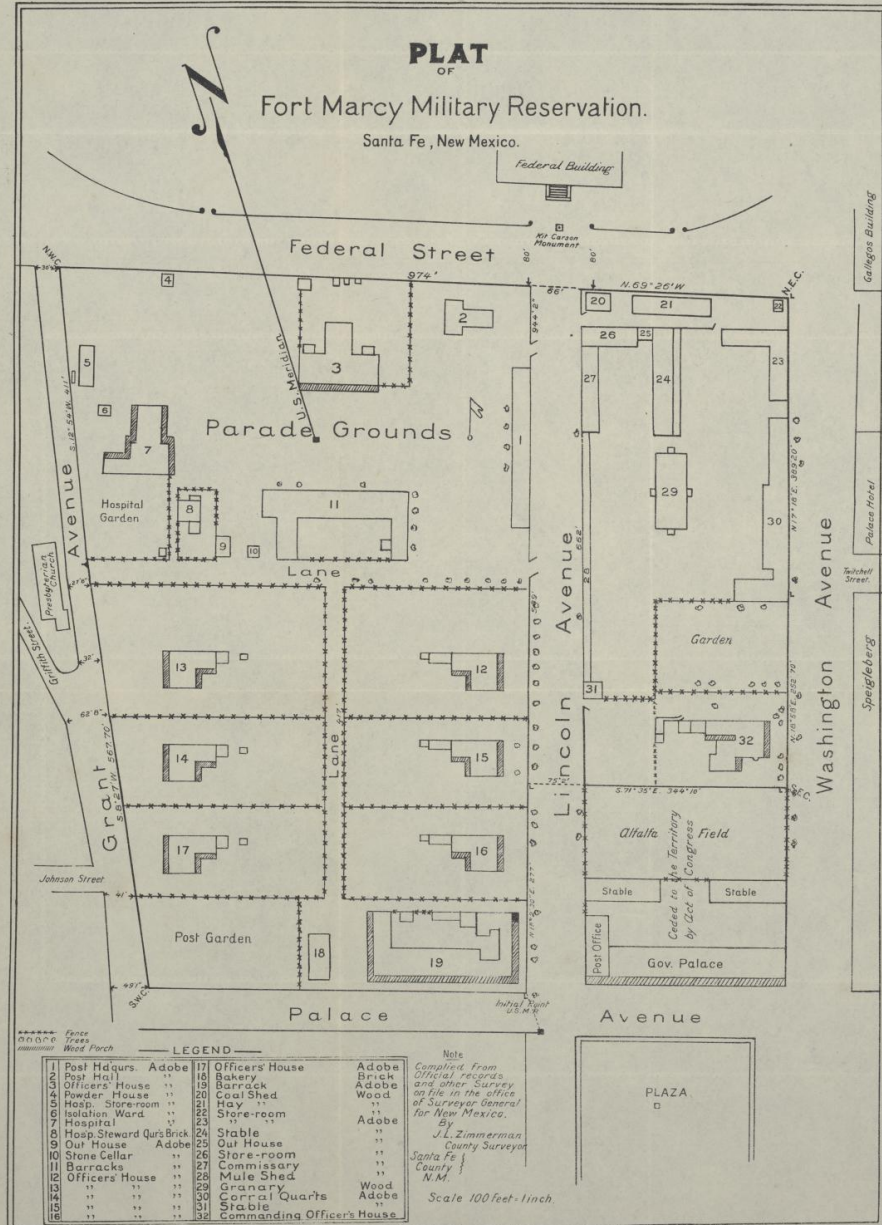




Santa Fe from Old Fort Marcy, c. 1884-92. Photo by Dana B. Chase. Courtesy Palace of the Governors Photo Archives (NMHM/DCA. Neg. #010016).  
<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/new-mexico-fort-marcy-ruins.htm>

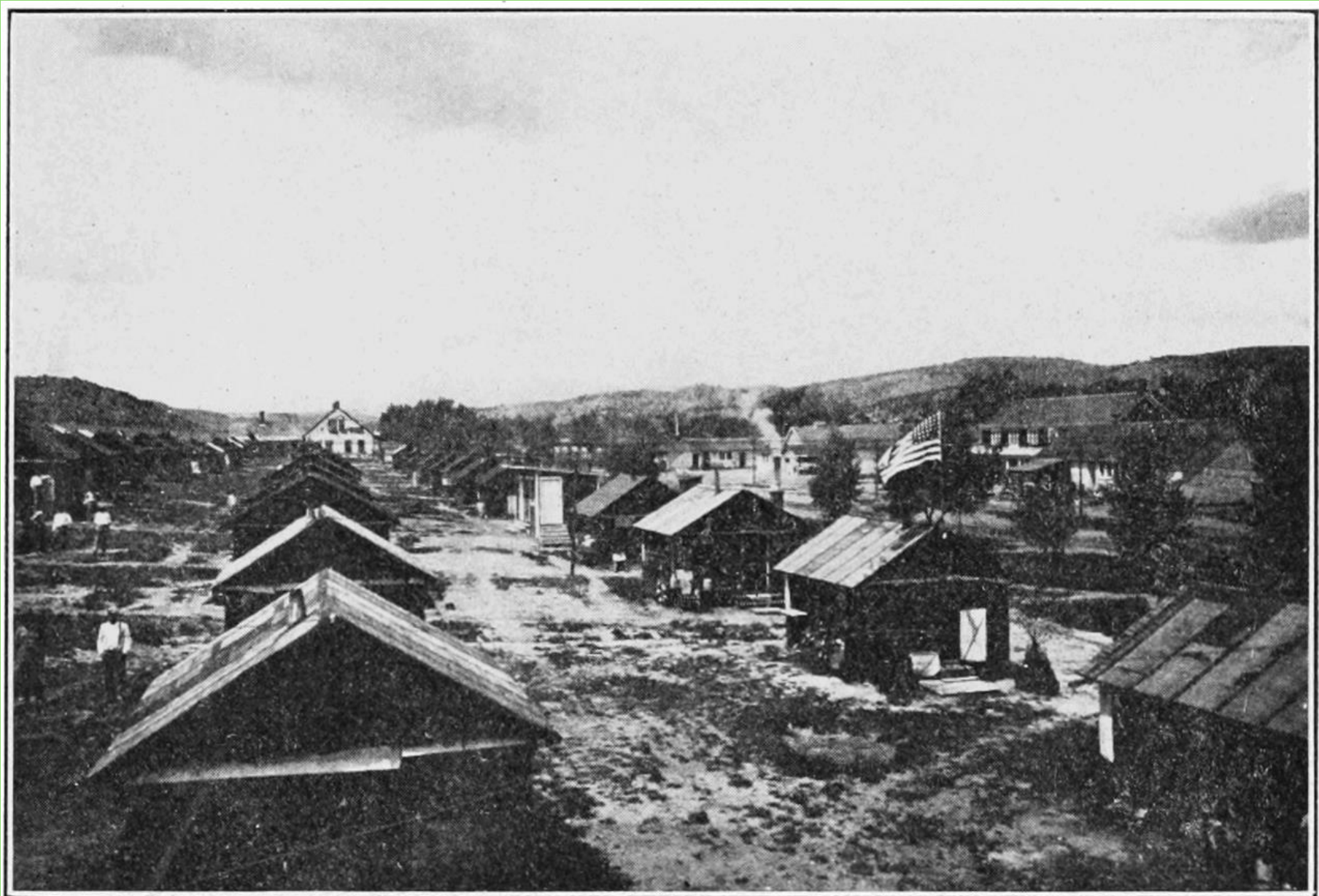
# Fort Marcy Plat

Hired workers and troops assembled the fort, building 9-foot high and 5-foot thick adobe walls to construct the irregular tridecagon structure.<sup>[1]</sup> Outside of the defense, an adobe blockhouse and powder magazine were established to store artillery and weapons. Fort Marcy was "ample enough to hold 1000 soldiers."<sup>[2]</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort\\_Marcy\\_\(New\\_Mexico\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Marcy_(New_Mexico))





# Fort Stanton (1855-1896)





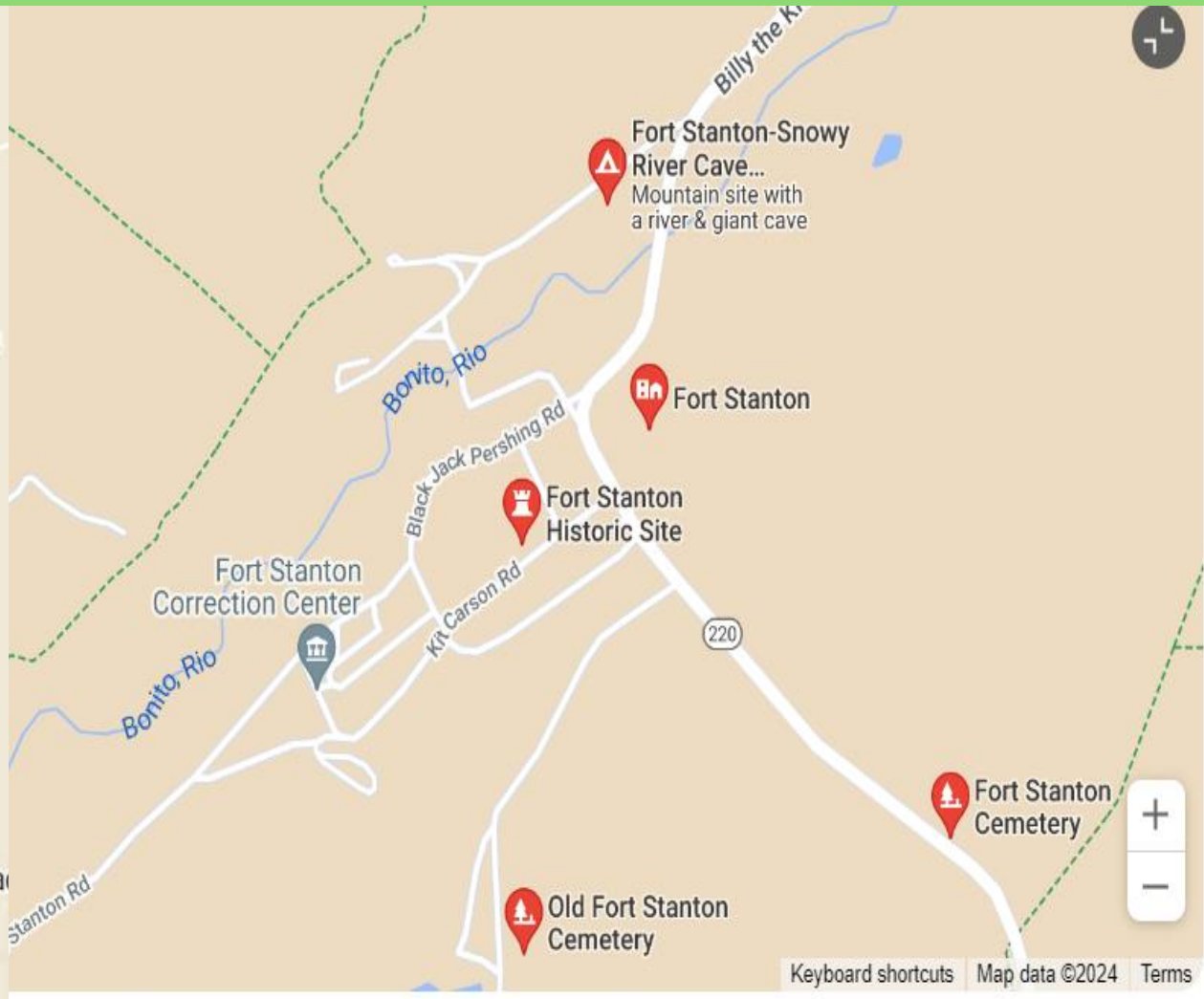
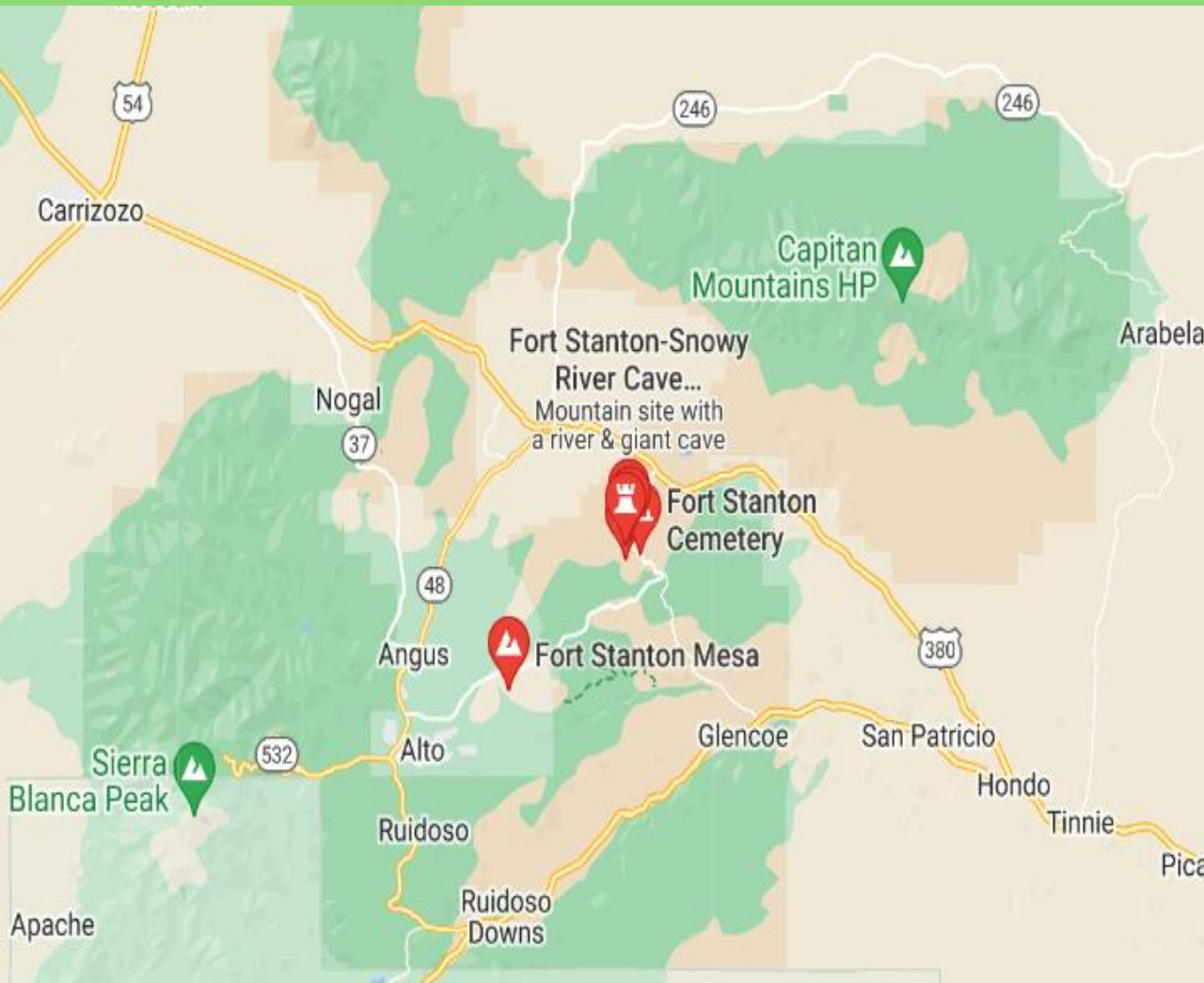
# Fort Stanton



Established in 1855, Fort Stanton may be one of the most intact 19th-century military forts in the country and is the best-preserved fort in New Mexico. Found just outside the historic town of Lincoln and surrounded by the Lincoln National Forest, the 240-acre site is best known for its roles in the Indian Wars and the Civil War. <https://www.fortstanton.org/>



# Fort Stanton 1855 -1896



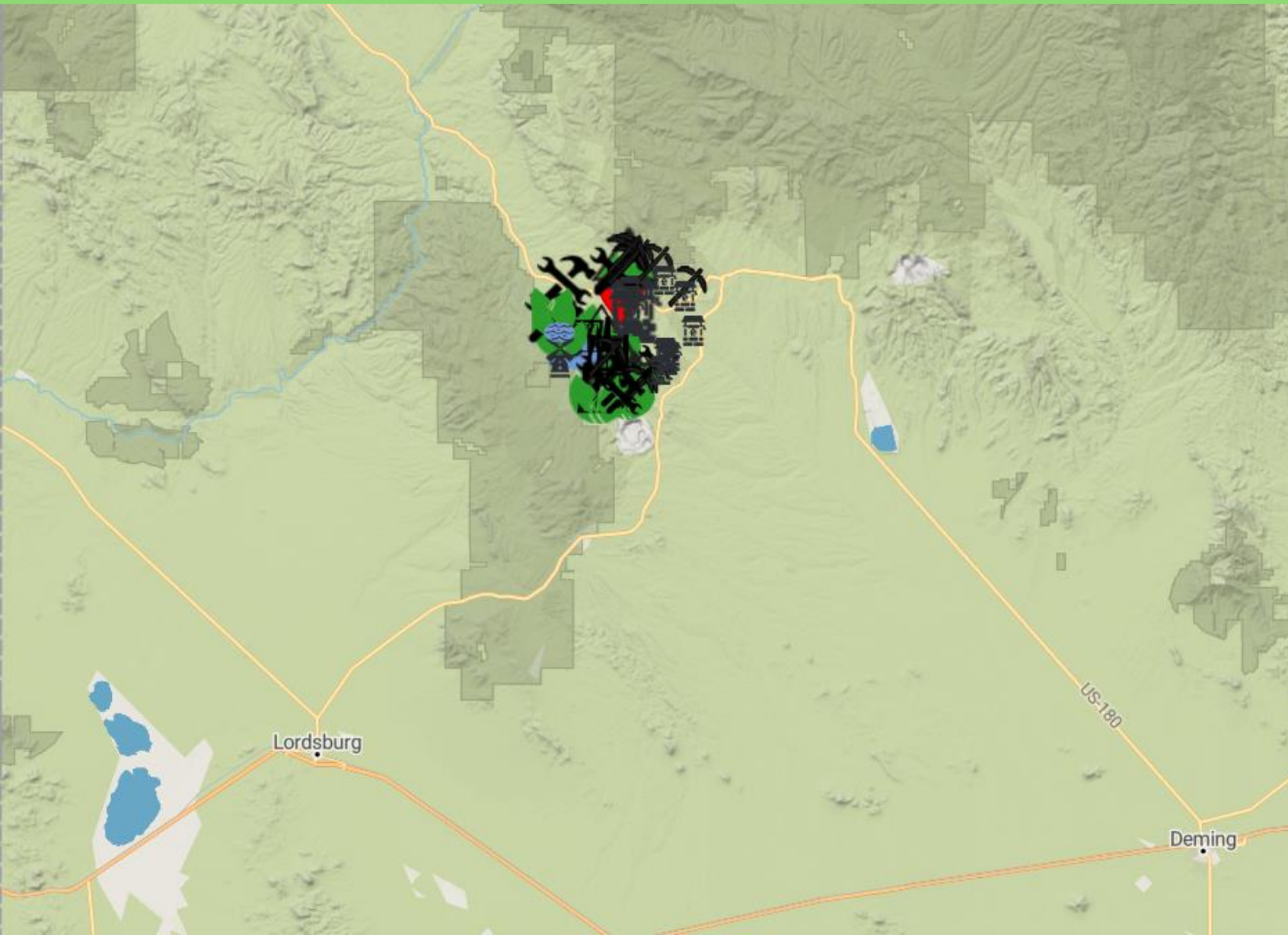
# Fort Stanton Timeline

- Built in 1855 by the 1st Dragoon and the 3rd and 8th Infantry Regiments to serve as a base of military operations against the Mescalero Apache. Numerous campaigns were fought from 1855 until the 1880s.
- Confederate forces occupied the outpost in 1861, at the beginning of the [American Civil War](#). Union Forces reclaimed Fort Stanton in 1862.
- The fort was originally established in part as the Mescalero Apache reservation. In 1873 the reservation was moved 30 miles southwest to its current location.<sup>[</sup> This U.S. military fortification was abandoned with the withdrawal of U.S. forces in 1896.
- In 1899, President [William McKinley](#) transferred Fort Stanton property from the War Department to the Marine Hospital Service, converting the military reservation to America's first federal tuberculosis sanatorium.<sup>[</sup>
- During [World War II](#), Fort Stanton was used as a detention center for German and Japanese Americans.
- The hospital was closed in 1953
- In 2008, New Mexico governor [Bill Richardson](#) announced plans to establish Fort Stanton as a living history venue, Fort Stanton State Monument, and funds to renovate headquarters, officers quarters, and stables.
- In 2009, the area around Fort Stanton and Fort Stanton Cave was designated by the U.S. Congress as a National Conservation Area (NCA).

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort\\_Stanton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Stanton)

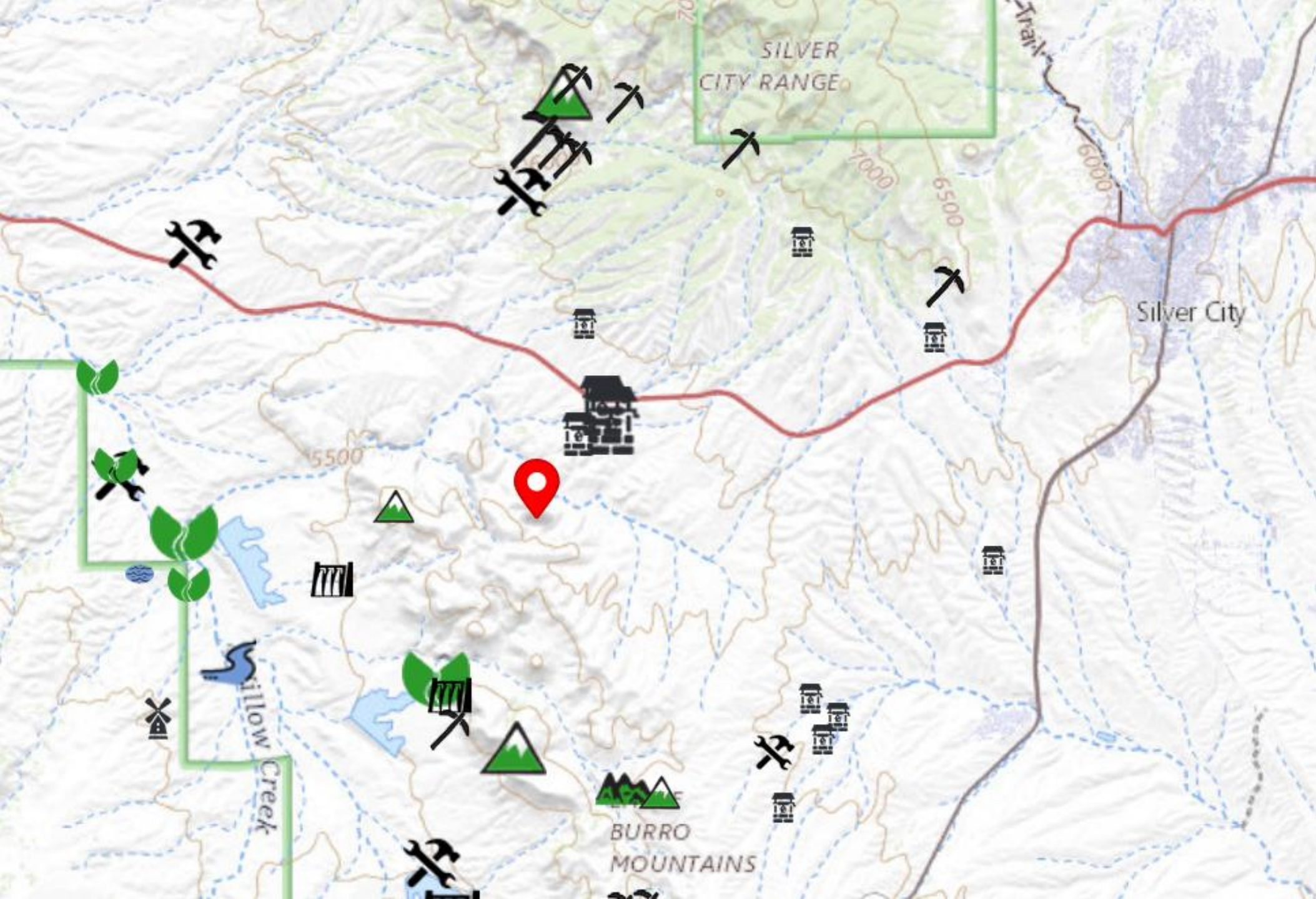


# Fort Webster (1852-1866)



Short-lived frontier fort that occupied at several different sites, the last being near the present village of San Lorenzo





Fort Webster  
Approx Location



# The Many Locations of Fort Webster

- **Fort Santa Rita del Cobre** (1804 - 1838, 1851 - 1852), *Santa Rita*  
A civilian Spanish/Mexican triangular adobe fort with three round towers to protect the Santa Rita copper mines. Built by Manuel Elguea. Repaired and garrisoned by Mexican troops in 1836. Abandoned after repeated Apache attacks. Occupied by an American Border Commission survey party in April 1851 and called **Cantonment Dawson**. Reoccupied and renamed by the U.S. Army in January 1852 as **Post at Gila Copper Mines** or **Fort Webster (1)**. Replaced by Fort Webster (2) (see below). The last remaining adobe tower succumbed in the 1950's. Site located about two miles east of *Hanover*. No remains, now a modern open-pit copper mine operation. A down-sized replica of this fort is located in *Pinos Altos*. See also [Historic Sites in Pinos Altos](#)
- **Fort Webster(2)** (1852 - 1853, 1859 - 1860), *San Lorenzo*  
Originally located at the Santa Rita copper mines 14 miles west of here at the site of Fort Santa Rita (above). The post moved in September 1852 to this location on the west bank of the Rio Mimbres, about one mile west of town. It was then abandoned in December 1853 for Fort Thorn. It was briefly reoccupied in 1859 as **Station at the Copper Mines**.
- **Fort Webster (4)** (1861), *Mimbres*  
A Butterfield - Overland stage station originally known as **Mimbres Station**, it was briefly fortified by a Major (Sylvester ?) Mowry before he joined the Confederacy in 1861.
- **Fort Webster (5)** (1866), *near Mimbres*  
A temporary post located at the headwaters of the Rio Mimbres, on the west bank, 15 miles north of *Santa Rita*. It is mentioned in Brig. General John Pope's 1866 Report, and featured on a 1877 map.

# New Mexico during World War 2

| Military installations <sup>[5]</sup> | Total |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Major Airbases                        | 8     |
| Dispersal Bases                       | 5     |
| Bombing & Gunnery Ranges              | 13    |
| Army Hospitals                        | 4     |
| Camps                                 | 2     |
| National Cemeteries                   | 3     |
| POW Camps                             | 3     |
| Branch POW Camps                      | 19    |
| National Guard Armories               | 11    |
| Colleges & Universities               | 7     |
| Specialized Military Locations        | 7     |



# Additional Resources for Forts in New Mexico

World War 1: Camp Cody: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp\\_Cody,\\_New\\_Mexico](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp_Cody,_New_Mexico)

American Forts - New Mexico: <https://www.northamericanforts.com/West/nm.html>

American History and Genealogy Project: <http://www.ahgp.org/forts/new-mexico-military-forts.html>

Access Genealogy- New Mexico Frontier Forts prior to 1902:

<https://accessgenealogy.com/new-mexico/new-mexico-frontier-forts-prior-to-1902.htm>

Wikipedia – Category Forts in New Mexico:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Forts\\_in\\_New\\_Mexico](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Forts_in_New_Mexico)

Current Military installations in New Mexico:

- [Los Alamos Demolition Army Base in North Central, NM](#)
- [Kirtland Air Force Base in Bernalillo, NM](#)
- [Holloman Air Force Base in Otero, NM](#)
- [Cannon Air Force Base in Curry, NM](#)
- [White Sands Missile Range Army Base in Otero, NM](#)